

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. The Examiner has withdrawn from consideration Claims 7-14 and 17-19 for being directed to non-elected subject matter. By this Amendment, the Specification and Claims 1 and 3-6 are amended, and Replacement Sheets of formal drawing Figures 1, 2B, 3-5, 13, 15-17, 21, 23-25, 31, 33-38 and 43 are submitted. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found at least on page 12, line 5, to page 13, line 25, and in Figures 1-5 and 12-14 of the application as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that no new subject matter is presented herein.

Election of Species

Applicants confirm the election of Species I, Claims 1-6 and 15-16, directed to a mechanism including a shaft and a hub for transmitting torque between the shaft and the hub, as shown in Figures 1-14. This election is made without traverse. The Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter. Claims 1 and 15 are generic. As such, Applicant preserves the right to request rejoinder of the non-elected claims upon the allowance of a relevant generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

In view of the Applicants' above election, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement has been satisfied. The Applicants submit that claims 1-6 and 15-16 read on Species I and the elected invention.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request examination of these claims on the merits.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because reference numbers “10” in Figure 1, “100” in Figure 15, “200” in Figure 23, and “300” in Figure 33 should not be underlined therein and should be depicted with an arrow. Enclosed herein are Replacement Sheets of formal drawing Figures 1, 15-16, 23-24, and 33-34, which have corrected the drawings in a manner believed to fully address the basis of the objection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(4) because reference characters 12, 14, 22, 22a, 22b, and 28 have been used to designate common features having different configurations. Enclosed herein are Replacement Sheets of formal drawing Figures 1, 2B, 3-5, 13, 15-17, 21, 23-25, 31, 33-38 and 43, which have been corrected in a manner believed to fully address the basis of the objections. Applicants have amended the Specification to address the changes to the drawings therein. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

The drawings are objected to because reference characters “P0”, “a”, “b”, and “c” are missing the lead lines and Figure 2B contains extraneous text. Enclosed herein are Replacement Sheets of formal drawing Figures 3, 16, 24-25, and 34, which have been amended in a manner believed to fully address the basis of the objections. The Applicants submit that “a”, “b” and “c” do not refer to different structural features as indicated in the Office Action. Rather, “a”, “b” and “c” refer to the successively changing areas where the shaft tooth section and the hub tooth section mesh with each other, regardless of embodiment. As related to applied loads, the areas may overlap as

shown by the circles in Figure 2B. The extraneous text in Figure 2B has been deleted. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 is objected to for containing informalities therein. Applicants have amended the claim in a manner believed to be responsive to the objection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-6, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended the claims in a manner believed to be responsive to the rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,142,033 to Beigang. Claims 1, 3, 4, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,779,551 to Stall *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reason(s).

Claim 1 recites a mechanism including, among other features, a shaft and a hub for transmitting torque between the shaft and the hub. A shaft tooth section is formed on the shaft while a hub tooth section is formed on the hub. The shaft tooth section has a crowned peak having a varying tooth thickness along an axial length of the crowned peak.

With regards to Beigang, Applicants note that the shaft toothing 5 has teeth 18 with cross-sections which widen in steps from the major diameter to the base diameter,

with a step 21 being positioned in the portion of the pitch diameter (DT) (see Figure 4 and column 4, lines 28-33). The shaft toothing 5 in Beigang varies in radial thickness with steps in thickness at specified radial points. Beigang does not disclose or suggest that the shaft toothing 5 has a crowned peak that varies in thickness along the axial length of the crowned peak, as recited by Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Stall, alone or by combination, does not cure the deficiencies of Beigang. Applicants respectfully point out that reference 6 in Stall is actually the shaft end of the shaft 1 and not a shaft tooth portion as asserted in the Office Action (see Office Action paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11). As such, the shaft end 6 does not have a crowned peak. Furthermore, Stall simply discloses shaft teeth 2. Stall does not disclose or suggest that the shaft teeth 2 have a crowned peak that varies in thickness along the axial length of the crowned peak, as recited by Claim 1.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, each and every feature recited by a rejected claim must be disclosed by the art of record. As explained above, Beigang and Stall, alone or by any combination, do not disclose each and every feature recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of Beigang and Stall and should be deemed allowable.

Claims 2-6 and 15-16 depend from Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these dependent claims be deemed allowable over Beigang and Stall for at least the same reason(s) that Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

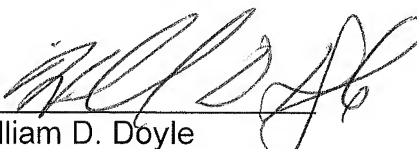
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, allowance of Claims 1-6 and 15-16, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Docket Number 025416.00026.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Replacement Sheets of Formal Drawing
Figures 1, 2B, 3-5, 13, 15-17, 21, 23-25, 31, 33-38 and 43

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